

REMARKS

Formal Matters

The Examiner objected to the specification of the parent application due to alleged informalities. Applicant has amended the specification to add a brief description of Figures 11 and 11a - 11c. No new matter was added.

The Examiner objected to the drawings of the parent application, particularly the omission of reference numerals 6 and 7 which are disclosed in the specification. Applicant has amended the drawings, adding no new matter, such that reference numerals 6 and 7 are shown in Figure 4. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests approval of the modifications to the drawing Figure 4.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attachment is captioned "**Version with Markings to Show Changes Made.**"

New Claims

Claims 39-53 are added via this preliminary amendment and Applicant submits that these new claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request such action.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the claims now presented are allowable. Consideration of Claims 39-53 is earnestly solicited.

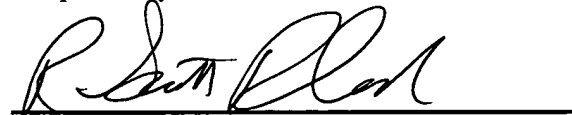
The Commissioner is further authorized to charge any additional fees required to deposit account 19-4547.

Please note the new address and contact numbers for the attorney-of-record. Please direct all future correspondence to this address:

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A telephone call to the below-signed attorney is invited if it would speed allowance or clarity of any argument.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Specification:

Cross-Reference To Related Applications

This application claims the benefit of copending U.S. Provisional Application Serial Number 60/091,807, filed July 6, 1998 and is a continuation of copending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number 09/347,476.

The Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, wherein:

FIGURE 1 is a perspective view of a typical line trimmer and guard embodiment of this invention;

FIGURE 2 is a perspective view of a typical line trimmer motor and shaft, fitted with a coupling flange for mounting the guard illustrated in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 3 is a top view of the guard illustrated in FIGURE 1;

FIGURE 4 is a perspective, exploded view of a preferred universal dolly for receiving and mounting a conventional gasoline-powered or electric line trimmer according to this invention;

FIGURE 5 is a side view, partially in section, of a typical bracket flange for mounting wheels, on the dolly illustrated in FIGURE 4;

FIGURE 6 is a top elevation of the universal dolly illustrated in FIGURE 4, assembled with left, right and rear wheels and a guard added to the horizontally-oriented dolly frame and an electric line trimmer mounted on the frame in mowing configuration;

FIGURE 7 is a top elevation of the universal dolly illustrated in FIGURE 1, with an electric line trimmer mounted on the dolly and the wheels oriented in outside rear wheel receptacles in trimming configuration;

FIGURE 8 is a side elevation of the universal dolly with the wheels mounted on the front wheel receptacles of the vertically-oriented dolly frame, to facilitate an edging function of the electric line trimmer along a sidewalk;

FIGURE 9 is a front elevation of the universal dolly illustrated in FIGURE 8, in the edging configuration;[and]

FIGURE 10 is an alternative star-shaped wheel receptacle design for removably securing the wheels to the universal dolly[.];

FIGURE 11 is an isometric view of a wheel mount bracket; and

FIGURES 11a - 11c show a wheel mount bracket inserted in a star-shaped receptacle at various positions to adjust wheel height.

Claims:

39. (New) A dolly for a line trimming apparatus comprising a dolly frame adapted to support a line trimming apparatus thereon, said dolly frame including a coupling portion for connecting said dolly to said line trimming apparatus, first and second opposed wheel receptacles for receiving wheel mounting brackets for first and second opposed support wheels, a third wheel receptacle for receiving a wheel mounting bracket for a third support wheel for supporting said line trimming apparatus in one of a mower and trimmer configuration, and fourth and fifth wheel receptacles for receiving wheel mounting brackets for respective support wheels for supporting said line trimming apparatus in an edger configuration.

40. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 39 wherein:

at least one of said dolly and selected ones of said wheel mounting brackets include cooperating locks for releasable retaining said selected wheel mounting brackets in selected ones of said wheel receptacles.

41. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 39 wherein:

said first and second wheel receptacles form a first pair of said wheel receptacles which project in opposite directions from each other, and said fourth and fifth wheel receptacles form a second pair of said wheel receptacles extending substantially parallel to each other and in a direction generally normal to said first pair of wheel receptacles.

42. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 41 wherein:

said first pair of wheel receptacles and said third wheel receptacle are operable to receive wheel mounting brackets for supporting said line trimming apparatus by three support wheels in a tricycle configuration for operation of said line trimming apparatus as a mower.

43. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 39 wherein:

said coupling portion includes an opening in said dolly frame including a plurality of circumferentially spaced tabs cooperating with corresponding tabs on said line trimming apparatus for receiving said line trimming apparatus in a twist and lock coupling between said line trimming apparatus and said dolly.

44. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 43 wherein:

at least one of said tabs on said dolly comprises a resiliently deflectable lock tab for forcibly engaging a co operating tab on said line trimming apparatus to releasably lock said line trimming apparatus to said dolly.

45. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 44 wherein:

said line trimming apparatus includes a generally planar guard member including an opening formed therein and lock tabs formed thereon for releasable engagement with corresponding tabs on said line trimming apparatus.

46. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 39 wherein:

selected ones of said wheel receptacles include a configuration for receiving said wheel mounting brackets in plural selected positions of said wheel mounting brackets with respect to said dolly frame to selectively vary the cutting height of said line trimming apparatus.

47. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 39 including:

a brace extending from said dolly frame for engagement with a shaft of said line trimming apparatus for stabilizing said line trimming apparatus with respect to said dolly.

48. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 39 wherein:

at least selected ones of said wheel mounting brackets each include a stub axle and a bracket flange projecting therefrom for supporting a wheel bolt for connecting a wheel to said wheel mounting bracket.

49. (New) The dolly set forth in Claim 48 wherein:

the axis of said wheel bolt extends generally parallel to and is spaced from said stub axle.

50. (New) A dolly for a line trimming apparatus comprising a dolly frame adapted to support a line trimming apparatus thereon, said dolly frame including a frame plate provided with a coupling opening for receiving a head portion of a line trimming apparatus in supportive relationship thereto, said dolly frame further including first and second opposed wheel connectors thereon for wheel mounting brackets for first and second opposed support wheels, a third wheel

connector for a wheel mounting bracket for a third support wheel for supporting said line trimming apparatus for one of mowing and trimming grass, and fourth and fifth wheel connectors for wheel mounting brackets for respective support wheels for supporting said line trimming apparatus for operation as an edger.

51. (New) In combination, a line trimming apparatus having a rotatable cutting element and a coupling flange including a plurality of circumferentially spaced alternating slots and tabs formed thereon, a dolly for supporting said line trimming apparatus for operation as at least one of a mower, edger and trimmer, said dolly including a coupling opening comprising a plurality of circumferentially spaced tabs cooperable with corresponding tabs on said coupling flange and for receiving said line trimming apparatus in a twist and lock coupling between said line trimming apparatus and said dolly and a generally planar guard member including an opening formed therein and characterized by tabs for releasable engagement with corresponding tabs on said coupling flange whereby said line trimming apparatus may be used as a hand carried trimming apparatus with said guard attached thereto and said guard may be disconnected from said coupling flange so that said line trimming apparatus may be connected to said dolly for use as one of said mower, edger and trimmer.

52. (New) The combination set forth in Claim 51 wherein:

said dolly includes a frame including first and second opposed wheel connectors thereon for receiving wheel mounting brackets for first and second opposed support wheels, and a third wheel connector for a wheel mounting bracket for a third support wheel for supporting said line trimming apparatus in a mower configuration.

53. (New) The combination set forth in Claim 52 including:

fourth and fifth wheel connectors for wheel mounting brackets for respective support wheels for supporting said line trimming apparatus in an edger configuration.

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